

A NEW LOCALITY RECORD OF *XENORHIPIS OSBORNI*
KNULL, WITH NOTES ON HOST AND WORK

(Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

BY T. O. THATCHER

University of California

In May, 1947, some branches of dead willow (*Salix* sp.) from four miles northwest of Blythe, Riverside County, California, were brought into the laboratory of the Division of Entomology and Parasitology at Berkeley. They were placed in a cage to attempt rearing of beetles, the presence of which was indicated by borings in the wood.

During August, 1947, two male beetles emerged. These were brachelytrous, metallic blue-green and had flabellate antennae. They were referred to Dr. E. C. Van Dyke of the California Academy of Sciences who identified them as *Xenorhipis osborni* Knull.

This appears to be a new record, the species not having been recorded previously from California. It also constitutes a new host record as Knull's original series was taken on Cat's Claw (*Acacia constricta* Benth.) in the Davis Mountains of Texas, May 24 to 27, 1935.

The general form of the specimens corresponds with that of the paratype of *X. osborni* in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences but the California specimens are smaller, of a green color rather than blue and the basal dark area of the elytron is more triangular, giving the white band a more oblique appearance.

WORK OF *XENORHIPIS OSBORNI* KNULL

The eggs are laid singly, and of the five oviposition points found in the specimen observed, 2 eggs were 1 mm. apart, 1 was 7 mm. from that point and the other two were 22 mm. and 36 mm. away. Four of the eggs were laid in the bark of an internode and one through a crevice at the base of a twig. It could not be determined whether the eggs in the open bark were laid in some natural opening or whether the opening was made by the female beetle.

Where the bark was thick, the larval tunnel for a short distance was entirely in the bark, but where the bark was thin it com-

menced at the level of the wood, engraving the bark deeply and the wood very lightly. The frass is loosely packed in the tunnel and is composed of rather uniform, cylindrical pellets about 1/5 to 1/4 mm. long, half that diameter, with bluntly rounded to square ends. The frass is red-brown in color like the inner bark, except in that portion of the tunnel where the excavation for the pupal chamber is made into the wood. Here it is the pale color of the wood.

The tunnels are the typical wide, shallow, winding ones of Buprestidae but there are no striations on the wood surface. Three tunnels which were completed measured 52 mm., 67 mm. and 88 mm. in length and a fourth which was not completed measured 50 mm., all beginning with a width of approximately 1/3 mm. and enlarging gradually to 3 mm. at the point where the pupal chamber was constructed. The pupal chamber is 2 to 2-1/2 mm. wide and 9 mm. long, slightly curved, and has, in the one cut open, a maximum depth of 2 mm. under the wood surface.

DISTRIBUTION OF SPHAERIDIUM LUNATUM FAB.

(Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae)

On a recent collecting trip one male and two females of *Sphaeridium lunatum* Fab. (det. H. B. Leech) were taken by the author at Big Springs in Shasta County, California, on the 26th of June, 1947. This is the first time that this species has been reported from California.

In 1940 W. J. Brown reported (Canad. Ent. 72:65-78) that the species occurs in Canada, the earliest record being in 1926. He gives a key to this and two other introduced species of the genus, *Sphaeridium bipustulatum* Fab. and *Sphaeridium scarabaeoides*. L. Hatch in 1946 (Pan-Pac. Ent., 22:77-80) reports the species from New York, 1923; Illinois, 1924; Colorado, 1938; Idaho, 1928; Washington (several specimens, the earliest record being in 1926). In Mr. Leech's collection at the California Academy of Sciences are specimens from the following unrecorded localities: Forest Grove, Ore., 14 May 1938, Gray & Schuh, mechanical trap; Belle Fourche, S. D., 6 July 1941, N. P. Larson, Trap 2w; Jaenette, Pa., May 1926; Columbia, Mo., 19 April 1939, W. A. Enns, in dung; Odessa trail, Rocky Mt. Nat. Park, Col., 11,000 ft. elev., 23 July 1933, A. W. Andrews. The collection of the California Academy of Sciences includes two specimens labeled Barnstead, N. H., 11 Sept. 1928, F. E. Blaisdell.—DAVID H. BIXBY, *University of California*.